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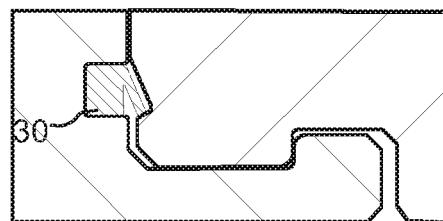
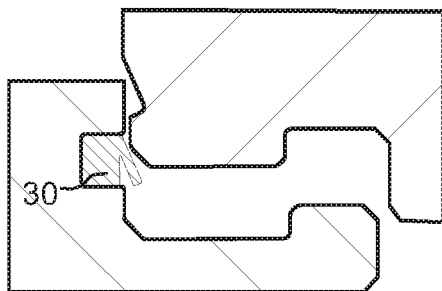
(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
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(54) **Flooring system comprising mechanically joinable floor panels**

(57) A flooring system comprises a plurality of floor panels (1,1') which are mechanically connectable to each other along one pair of adjacent joint edges, each floor panel being provided with a first groove formed in one piece with the panel at a first joint edge and a flexible tongue (30) connected to a second groove at a second opposite joint edge for mechanically locking together said edges at right angles to the principal plane of the panels, thereby forming a vertical mechanical connections (D1) between the panels, said panels being provided with a locking element (8), formed in one piece with the panel, at said second opposite joint edge and a locking groove (14) at said first joint edge for mechanically locking together said edges (D2) parallel to the principal plane and at right angles to the edges, the locking groove being

open towards a rear side of the panel and the locking elements protrudes vertically from a locking strip. The flexible tongue (30) is flexible and resilient such that two panels can be mechanically joined by displacement of said two panels vertically towards each other, while a part of the tongue (30) at said second opposite joint edge is resiliently displaced horizontally, until said edges of the two panels are brought into engagement with each other horizontally and the tongue (30) at said second opposite joint edge is then displaced towards its initial position and against a wall of the first groove at the first joint edge, an outer part of the flexible tongue (30) extending beyond a vertical plane (V) of the edges, said outer part protruding downwardly.

Fig. 10b





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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 3 June 2016	Examiner Saretta, Guido
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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